



Helping Out: Tools to Make Cancer Caregiving Manageable

Grant Number: R44CA096173-03

Abbreviated Abstract

Nearly ten million people in the United States are living with cancer, with patients requiring greater care at home for longer periods of time. The physical, emotional, and financial burdens are borne by lay caregivers with an economic impact of over \$11 billion annually. This web site with interactive tools and downloadable handheld applications specifically aimed at addressing caregiver needs. *CancerCaregiving.com*TM provides caregivers with the means to achieve greater mastery over the practical and psychosocial tasks of care giving while managing and reducing the care giving burden. *CancerCaregiving.com*TM will be launched commercially in late 2008 to general consumers, with branding and licensing opportunities for health care institutions, freestanding cancer centers, employee health plans and health insurance providers.

Primary Investigator

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Research Team & Affiliations

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Total Budget

\$831,015

Research Objectives

AIMS

- 1) Use data gathered in Phase I research to refine the web-based, information-rich interactive tools.
- 2) Identify and develop the remaining interactive tools for the web site, with appropriate output files for handheld devices.
- 3) Produce the complete CancerCaregiving.comTM web site.



- 4) Test the effectiveness of the product through usability and online surveys.
- 5) Refine and finalize commercialization plans with identification of possible licensees.

Theory/Hypothesis

Use of online tools will assist caregivers in organizing and providing at home care while stress reduction techniques will minimize sense of burden.

Experimental Design

Online user survey

Final Sample Size & Study Demographics

Not yet implemented

Data Collection Methods

Usability testing with observation and survey; Online survey plus user feedback

Outcome Measures

Self-reported use of interactive tools, self-report use of stress reduction tools

Evaluation Methods

Usability study (completed); online user survey

Research Results

N/A

Barriers & Solutions

Initial testing evoked strong emotional reactions from testers, who had been involved in care giving. Testing staff was selected were highly trained health care professionals to help people deal with their feelings. Testers were informed that the site might elicit strong emotions and were told that the tester would identify the areas that could be problematic and they could be skipped.

Product(s) Developed from This Research

Cancer Caregiving®: Tools to Help You Help